

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

1164

September 21, 2012

Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We are writing to you regarding the television broadcast incentive auction that Congress authorized as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. As you know, Congress adopted this measure to permit those television licensees that want to exit the broadcast business to do so voluntarily, thereby freeing up frequencies which will be reallocated for wireless broadband services.

We understand this is the largest overhaul of spectrum our country has ever seen, and appreciate that the Federal Communications Commission is pursuing a thoughtful and comprehensive process. Increasing the amount of spectrum allocated to wireless broadband fulfills a vital national goal. However, it is equally important that the FCC protects the ability of the public to continue to receive free over-the-air television signals from those television stations that will continue to provide their service to our constituents after the auction is completed.

Reallocating broadcast spectrum to broadband will affect a large number of U.S. television markets, including many in New York. For this reason, the bandplan the FCC adopts for remaining television must not adversely affect the ability of our constituents to continue receiving the free local programming they currently receive. Thus, it remains incredibly important for the FCC to allow stakeholders the opportunity to review and comment on any repacking proposal before it is finalized.

Additionally, we encourage you to continue to work closely with Canadian officials to ensure that the public can continue to view these local broadcast stations without interference. The United States and Canada are bound by treaty obligations to coordinate with each other with respect to channel assignments to protect the television viewing public in each country.

Again, we commend you on your efforts thus far. We urge you to continue on the side of disclosure as you implement this important new statute, allowing enough time for all interested parties to determine how they may be affected.

We thank you for your attention to this request, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Michael H. Grimm

Michael Grimm
Member of Congress

Bill Owens

Bill L. Owens
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Charles E. Schumer

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Charles B. Rangel

Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

Gary L. Ackerman

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Richard Hanna

Richard Hanna
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Ann Marie Buerkle

Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Nita Lowey

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. The broadcaster LEARN program, which is underway already, is designed specifically to reach out to educate, and to solicit substantive input from broadcasters on all aspects of the incentive auction.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and will keep you apprised of the Commission's progress. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman
U.S. House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ackerman:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Ann Marie Buerkle
U.S. House of Representatives
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Buerkle:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
1029 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Joseph Crowley
U.S. House of Representatives
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crowley:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Chris Gibson
U.S. House of Representatives
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gibson:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Michael Grimm
U.S. House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grimm:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Richard Hanna
U.S. House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hanna:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Brian Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
U.S. House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCarthy:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Bill Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Owens:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
U.S. House of Representatives
2232 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Towns:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

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November 15, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velázquez:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to conduct its proceeding to implement the incentive auction of broadcast television spectrum in an open and transparent manner. I appreciate the hard work of Congress to establish this significant new tool in spectrum policy. Your concerns about the future of free over-the-air television and cross-border coordination are very important, and your correspondence will be included in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration.

The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. The broadcaster LEARN program, which is underway already, is designed specifically to reach out to educate, and to solicit substantive input from broadcasters on all aspects of the incentive auction.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and will keep you apprised of the Commission's progress. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski